

Head Coach Eddie Fogler

Following a second successful campaign as head coach at Wichita State, Eddie Fogler has solidified his reputation as one of the top young coaches in the game.

Already, the 40-year-old Fogler has established a standard of coaching excellence at Wichita State unmatched in the 81-year basketball history of the university. Fogler enters the 1988-89 season with a record of 42-21, the most victories by a Wichita State coach in his first two seasons.

When the Shockers downed Tulsa in the opening round of the Pepsi Missouri Valley Conference Tournament last March, Fogler achieved his second 20-win season in as many years and joined Ralph Miller (twice) and Gene Smithson (three times) as the only Shocker coaches to compile multiple 20-victory seasons. Fogler and Smithson are the only Wichita State coaches to have 20-victory campaigns in consecutive years.

Fogler is the first Shocker mentor to take his team to the NCAA Tournament in successive seasons — the Shockers made back-to-back appearances in 1964 under Miller and 1965 under Gary Thompson — and joins Smithson (1981 and 1985) as the only coach to have his Shocker teams appear twice in NCAA post-season play.

Of the 20 coaches in Wichita State's basketball history, Fogler already ranks ninth on the victory list and his .667 winning percentage is bettered by only three others.

His coaching ability was immediately recognized around the Missouri Valley Conference and the nation when as a rookie in 1986-87 he compiled the third-most victories among first-year Division I coaches. He was voted the MVC Coach of the Year in 1987 as he guided his team to a 22-11 record and the

league's post-season tournament championship. Last season, the Shockers lived up to their preseason billing by finishing in second place at 11-3 after battling nationally ranked Bradley to the final game for championship honors.

The Shockers' success story under Fogler includes a near-perfect record in the famous roundhouse known as Levitt Arena. Wichita State has produced a 30-2 record at home in Fogler's two seasons, including a 14-1 mark in 1987-88 when the Shockers ripped off 13 consecutive triumphs to close the campaign. The Shockers are 16-0 at home against Valley opponents in Fogler's tenure and have won 21 consecutive league contests in Levitt Arena.

Wichita State's boisterous fans quickly responded to the achievements of the Shockers under Fogler's guidance as the average attendance at games in 1987-88 jumped more than 1,000 over the previous year. Six of the team's final seven home games were near sellouts, and for the season attendance pushed over the 10,000 mark on eight occasions.

Fogler was named head coach at Wichita State on March 22, 1986 after 19 years as a player and coach at the University of North Carolina under the legendary Dean Smith. He brought with him to Wichita State a tireless work ethic, tremendous knowledge of the game gleaned from his years working with Smith and an unbridled enthusiasm for coaching.

In his first season as a head coach, Fogler took a team that had managed only a 14-14 record and a fifth-place MVC finish the previous season and built it into a solid conference title contender. The Shockers, third-place finishers in the 1986-87 regular season, closed the campaign with seven consecutive victories for a 22-10 record, and captured the MVC Tournament title and a berth in the NCAA Midwest Regional.



Photo: Gregory Drezdon

Wichita State has appeared in the NCAA Midwest Regional each of the past two seasons under Head Coach Eddie Fogler, the only coach in Shocker history to guide his team to consecutive NCAA Tournament appearances.

The Players

SASHA RADUNOVICH
SENIOR CENTER



The Opponents



Photo: Gregory Drezdon